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IVDAEA CAPTA.

Of all the coins that have, in the lapse of ages, issued from between the upper and the nether die, none probably have been looked on with more interest by the historian, the philosopher, the patriot, the devotee, than those which bear the legend which heads this article. This is the one device and superscription which every intelligent person, however slightly read, however innocent of numismatics in general, is expected to be acquainted with, to know what it means, and to feel what it means. That weeping Jewess crouching beneath the palm tree; the Hebrew who, with hands tied behind his back, seems gazing regretfully upon her; the stately Cæsar, who, on other specimens, arrayed with the insignia of his command—parazonium and hasta—appears to be exulting in her humiliation: such are the familiar emblems with which the possessor of these not very uncommon or costly relics can conjure up, in aid of the chronicler's potent spell, the spectres of a scene more tragic than any other which the earth has witnessed. We express this last opinion advisedly. Dreadful, no doubt, were the havoc and destruction when the spoils of the world were blazing in Visigoth or Vandal Rome; when Bagdad, with all its wealth of Saracenic art and culture, faded and withered on the approach of the Tartar hordes, and the last of the caliphs fell with two hundred thousand of the faithful: but the annihilation of Jerusalem, from whatever point of view, religious or irreligious, we may choose to regard it, is marked by circumstances of horror all its own, and surpassing in their extent and their intensity whatever else is presented on the pages of "recorded time". The numbers of the slaughtered, as transmitted by Josephus, may be slightly exaggerated, but they cannot be far from the truth; and the element of tragedy which the story involves is one far more impressive even than the irresistible and unrelenting Fate of the Greek drama: it is the idea of a "chosen people", chosen out of all mankind to be recipients of blessings and of wrath unparalleled—to become, in fact, the cast-off favorites of the Almighty. Such is the orthodox belief, only less pathetic than the orthodox theory of Man's creation and fall.

Philosophically considered, this devoted people owed its political extinction to the obstinate and unmanageable peculiarities of its character. Wandering about the world, then as now, like their kindred Phœnicians and Carthaginians, in quest of gain; using that gain as a breeder of further gain, and not for any lofty or imaginative purpose; and yet everywhere assuming a spiritual superiority over the nations on whom they preyed, they seemed to in-

trude among the other races of mankind with hostility and hatred* as bitter as were cherished by their marauding half-brother, the Ishmaelite Arabian, whose hand was "against every man, and every man's hand against him". When, therefore, the Roman empire, the great constructive and organizing power of the first two centuries of our era, found this utterly rebellious and insoluble political mass resisting its administrative processes in Syria, it had, perforce and by force, to put an end to the obstacle. Now, however, occurred a wonderful, nay, stupendous thing. Horace tells us that conquered Greece conquered her fierce conquerer by imposing her arts on uncultured Latium†; but captive Judæa led her mighty capturer captive by making him bow in abject submission to her revelation. And not only him, the Roman, but those Teutons also who in their turn trampled on the Roman's neck, these likewise and their posterity, *ourselves*, did the Israelite in his subjugation subjugate. We might, had we space, cite the passage of "Tancred" in which its author points to the most anti-religious of modern capitals revering the "divine image of the most illustrious of Hebrews" and consecrating "the most gorgeous of modern temples" to the "celestial efficacy of a Hebrew woman"; and we might call in the bard of "Brahma" to declare the subtle secrets which the red slayer knows not if he think he slays, or the slain if he think he is slain; but we have said enough in illustration of the transcendent interest which attaches to these coins with their afflicted yet triumphant daughter of Judah.

Can genuine ones be procured? Unquestionably; by importation from abroad. We never saw in an American auction-sale a specimen on which we could rely. But we have at this moment not fewer than nine lying before us, excellent in beauty and unimpeachable in character. One has a fine olive patination; another, an apple-green varnish; a third, the original brassy surface; and not a sign appears on any to hint of the ill-spent industry of a Cavino, a Bassiano, or a Becker.

It would be desirable, could our finances warrant the outlay, to append to this, as to every leading article of our periodical, a wood-cut or a photograph of the subject it discusses. But the various types of the "Judæa Capta" have been engraved more frequently than any other coin. Representations of them may be found in Scripture Commentaries, Dictionaries of the Bible, and, more particularly, in that excellent work, Madden's "History of Jewish Coinage". They may therefore be the more readily dispensed with here.

We think the consideration of the great event which these pieces commemorate to be pre-eminently appropriate to this "blessed Christmas season". With the awful catastrophe which they recall began that ever-improving order of things which the Evangelists, in their figurative language, denominate "the Kingdom of Heaven". Let those who disbelieve in its existence, those who have no eyes except for the black shadows which accompany all brilliant lights, for the corruption out of which all beauty springs, let these restrain their scoffing and remember the tardy and wasteful yet unerring operation of the Great Laws. Individuals, indeed, are forever dropping by the wayside, but generation after generation presses nearer to the goal. The new Reign has assuredly begun: its achievements will, in time, more fully appear.

Ὅψε θεῶν ἀλέουσι μύλοι, ἀλέουσι δὲ λεπτά.

Profound as quaint is this ancient proverb that the mills of the Gods grind slow but fine.

* "*Adversus omnes alios hostile odium*". Tacitus. Hist., Lib. V. Cap. V.

† "*Græcia capta ferum victorem cepit, et artes Intulit agresti Latio*". Lib. II. Epist. I., l. 156.

THE OLDEST ENGLISH WAR MEDAL.

"After the defeat of the Scots at Dunbar, on the 3d of September, 1650, the House of Commons ordered that it be referred to the committee of the army, to consider what medals may be prepared for officers and soldiers, that were in this service in Scotland, and set the proportions and the values of them, and their number, and present the estimate of them to the House'. The house voted that the officers and men 'which did this excellent service' should be presented with gold and silver medals. Simon, an eminent engraver of that day, was sent to Cromwell, to consult with him as to the device for this medal. Dr. Harris, in the appendix to his 'Historical and Critical Account of Oliver Cromwell', page 538, has printed an original letter of Cromwell's to the parliament (then in the possession of James Lamb, Esq., of Fairford, in Gloucestershire, and subsequently of John Raymond Barker, of the same place) on Symond (Simon)'s proceeding as above stated. The letter is highly characteristic, and is as follows:

'For ye Honble the Comittee for the Army, these.

Gentl.,—It was not a little wonder to me to see that you should send Mr. Symonds so great a journey about a business importinge so lirtle, as far as it relates to me, when, as if my poore opinion may not be rejected by you, I have to offer to that wch I thinke the most noble end, to witt, the commemoracon of that great mercie at Dunbar, and the gratuitie to the army, wch might better be expressed upon the meddal by engraving as on the one side the Parliament, wch I heare was intended, and will do singularly well; so, on the other side, an army wth this inscription over the head of it, The Lord of Hosts, wch was or word that day: wherefore, if I may begg it as a favor from you, I most earnestly beseech you, if I may do it wrth out offence, that it may be soe; and if you thinke not fitt to have it as I offer, you may alter it as you see cause; only I doe thinke I may truly say it will be verie thankfully acknowledged by me, if you wil spare the having my effigies in it.

The gentlemans paynes and trouble hither have been verie great, and I shall make it my seconde suite unto you that you will please to conferr upon him that imploynt in yr service wch Nicholas Briott had before him; indeed, the man is ingenious and worthe of encouragement. I may not presume much, but if at my request and for my sake he may obteyne this favor, I shall put it upon the acceptom of my obligacons, wch are not a few, and I hope shal be found readie gratefully to acknowledge and to approve myself, Gentl.,

Yor most real servant,

O. CROMWELL.'

Edinburgh, 4th of Feb., 1650-1.

"Cromwell's modesty was over-ruled, and the medal bears his bust. On the obverse is the head of Cromwell, profile; under the shoulder, Tho: Simon F.; the motto about the head, WORD AT DUNBAR THE LORD OF HOSTS SEPTEM Y 3 1650; behind the head a prospect of the battle. The reverse has the House of Commons sitting, as represented on the Parliament Great Seal, 1648, and also on that of the Commonwealth, 1651. It is remarkable also for Cromwell's likeness when Lieutenant-General. This is engraved in 'The Medallick History of England', and in 'Simon's Medals and Coins'. The Dunbar medal is of two sizes*, and is the first given generally to officers and men, as is the present practice, and no instance occurred of a general distribution of medals by the Sovereign's command until that for Waterloo was authorized."

All that precedes is taken from that elegant and instructive work "Medals of the British Army, and How they were Won", by Thomas Carter, London, 1861, vol. II. pp. 3-5. Another Thomas, Carlyle by name, has also, in his "Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches", a great deal on the same subject, written in his queer, arrogant, "dirty chimney" style. We will preface his remarks by observing, as one of the "dilettanti" whom he despises, that we have met with two specimens of this "Cromwell's Dunbar Medal". One, in copper, was sold in Dr. Chilton's collection, No. 975, for \$6.75; the second, in silver, in our own possession, was obtained from a dealer in Germany. But now let us listen to "Great Tom" and his grumblings:

"An official Medallist has arrived from London to take the Effigies of the Lord General, for a Medal commemorative of the Victory at Dunbar. The Effigies, Portrait, or 'Statue', as they sometimes call it, of the Lord General appears to be in a state of forwardness; but he would fain waive such a piece of vanity. The 'Gratuity to the Army' is a solid thing: but this of the Effigies, or Stamp of my poor transient unbeautiful Face—? However, the Authorities, as we may surmise, have made up their mind". (Here follows the letter already given.)

"Of 'Nicholas Briot' and 'Mr. Symonds', since they have the honor of a passing relation to the Lord General, and still enjoy, or suffer, a kind of ghost-existence in the Dilettante memory, we may subjoin, rather than cancel, the following authentic particulars. In the Commons Journals of 20th August, 1642, it is:—'Ordered, That the Earl of Warwick', now Admiral of our Fleet, 'be desired that Monsieur Bryatt may have delivery of his wearing apparel; and all his other goods stayed at Scarborough, not belonging to Minting and Coining of Monies'. This Nicholas Briot, or Bryatt, then, must have been Chief Engraver for the Mint at the beginning of the Civil Wars. We perceive, he has gone to the King northward; but is here stopt at Scarborough, with all his baggage, by Warwick the Lord High Admiral; and is to get away. What became of him afterwards, or what was his history before, no man and hardly any Dilettante knows.

* "Both are in the British Museum, which through the kindness of Edward Hawkins, Esq., I have examined; one is in gold and the other in silver; there is an aperture at the top for the ribbon."

"Symonds, Symons, or as the moderns call him, Simon, is still known as an improved Medal-maker. In the Commons Journals of 17th December, 1651, we find: '*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Council of State to take order that the sum of £300 be paid unto Thomas Symons, which was agreed by the Committee appointed for that purpose to be paid unto him, for the Two Great Seals made by him, and the materials thereof: And that the said Council do take consideration of what farther recompense is fit to be given unto him for his extraordinary pains therein; and give order for the payment of such sum of money as they shall think fit in respect thereof.'

"An earlier entry, which still more concerns us here, is an Order, in favor of one whose name has not reached the Clerk, and is now indicated only by stars, that the Council of State shall pay him for 'making the Statue of the General,'—doubtless this Medal or Effigies of the General; the name indicated by stars being again that of Symonds. The Order, we observe, has the same date as the present Letter. The Medal of Cromwell, executed on this occasion, still exists, and is said to be a good likeness. The Committee-men had not taken my Lord General's advice about the Parliament, about the Army with the Lord of Hosts, and the total omitting of his own Effigies. Verue published Engravings of all these Medals of Simon (as he spells him) in the year 1753.

"The 'Two Great Seals,' mentioned in the Excerpt above, are also worth a word from us. There had a good few Great Seals to be made in the course of this War; all by Symonds: of whom, with reference thereto, we find, in authentic quarters, various notices, of years long prior and posterior to this. The *first* of all the 'new Great Seals' was the one made, after infinite debates and hesitations, in 1643, when Lord Keeper Lyttleton ran away with the original: Symonds was the maker of this, as other entries of the same Rhadamanthine Commons Journals instruct us: On the 11th July, 1643, Henry Marten is to bring 'the man' that will make the new Great Seal, and let us see him 'to-morrow;' which man it turns out, at sight of him, not 'to-morrow,' but a week after, on the 19th July, is 'Mr. Simonds,'—who, we find farther, is to have £100 for his work; £40 in hand, £30 so soon as his work is done, and the other £30 one knows not when. Symonds made the Seal duly; but as for his payment, we fear it was not made very duly. Of course when the Commonwealth and Council of State began, a couple of new Great Seals were needed; and these, too, as we see above, Symonds made; and is *to be* paid for them, and for the General's Statue;—which we hope he was, but are not sure!

"Other new Seals, Great and Not-so-great, in the subsequent mutations, were needed; and assiduous Symonds made them all. Nevertheless, in 1659, when the Protectorate under Richard was staggering towards ruin, we find 'Mr Thomas Symonds Chief Graver of the Mint and Seals,' repeatedly turning up with new Seals, new *order* for payment, and new indication that the order was but incompletely complied with. May 14th, 1659, he has made a new and newest Great Seal; he is to be paid for that, and 'for the former, for which he yet remains unsatisfied.' Also on the 24th May, 1659, the Council of State get a new Seal from him. Then on the 22d August, on the Rump Parliament's reassembling, he makes a 'new Parliament Seal;' and presents a modest Petition to have his money paid him: *order* is granted very promptly to that end; 'his debt to be paid for this Seal, and for all former work done him;'—we *hope*, with complete effect.

"The Restoration soon followed, and Symonds continued still in the Mint under Charles II.; when it is not very likely his claims were much better attended to; the brave Hollar, and other brave Artists, having their own difficulties to get life kept-in, during those rare times, Mr. Rignarole!—Symonds, we see, did get the place of Nicholas Briot; and found it, like other brave men's places, full of hark work and short rations. Enough now of Symonds and the Seals and Effigies.*"

A NUMISMATIC SIMILE.

"Did you ever happen to see that most soft-spoken and velvet-handed steam-engine at the Mint? The smooth piston slides backward and forward as a lady might slip her delicate finger in and out of a ring. The engine lays one of *its* fingers calmly, but firmly, upon a bit of metal; it is a coin now, and will remember that touch, and tell a new race about it when the date upon it is crusted over with twenty centuries. So it is that a great silent-moving misery puts a new stamp on us in an hour or a moment—as sharp an impression as if it had taken half a lifetime to engrave it".

So says "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table", and we are obliged to him for this only moderately enlivening technical comparison. The same First Volume of the *Atlantic Monthly* whence we extract the passage, contains a Numismatic Tale, albeit entitled "The Librarian's Story". It is not *very* bad, and we do not condemn it, though we can but faintly praise. Short as it is, it reminds us of another little "filius nullius", about whom there is a jocose story; and, as it was written about twelve years ago, we may trust that its author has sinned no more.

* Carlyle's "Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches", New York, 1845, vol. I., pp. 522-525.



CANADIAN CONFEDERATION MEDAL.

FROM THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, WITH ADDITIONS AND A LITHOGRAPHIC PLATE BY ALFRED SANDHAM, ESQ., OF MONTREAL.

The consolidation of the British Provinces of North America, formerly known as Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, into a confederation under the new title of the Dominion of Canada, was accomplished by Act of Parliament in 1867. The historical importance of this event is great, if we remember the vast extent of the Dominion (418,587 square miles, being nearly five times the area of Great Britain), the immense resources of these colonies as yet undeveloped, their steady progress in commercial and social prosperity, and their steadfast attachment to the British Crown. We must, therefore, find it most proper that the Canadian Government should have resolved to commemorate the Confederation of 1867 by a medal of an importance suitable to the occasion. They commissioned Messrs. Wyon, of Regent street, to execute the commemorative medal, which has recently been completed. Its design is shown in our engraving. The size of the medal is three inches in diameter. The obverse bears a portrait of her Majesty the Queen, who honored Mr. J. S. Wyon with sittings for the purpose. The likeness of the Queen is excellent, and the style of the composition and treatment is much better than that of the heads of her Majesty in our present coinage. She wears a crown, which is both simple and rich in effect, from which, in accordance with her custom of late years on state occasions, falls a veil which covers the back of the head. The portion of the dress which is visible is ornamented with a rich border of rose, thistle, and shamrock; and from a necklace is suspended a locket, frequently worn by her Majesty, containing a portrait of the late Prince Consort, and specially selected by her Majesty for representation upon this medal. The reverse side exhibits an allegorical group of figures representing Britannia presenting the charter of confederation to the four provinces. Each of these figures is distinguished by appropriate emblems. Ontario (formerly Upper Canada) carries a sheaf of corn and a sickle; Quebec (formerly Lower Canada) holds a paddle and bears a fleur-de-lis (indicating her French origin) on the shoulder; Nova Scotia holds a mining-spade, and New Brunswick a timber-ax. The inscription "JUVENTAS ET PATRIUS VIGOR CANADA INSTAURATA 1867" is in a curved border encircling the whole. The medal, struck in gold, has been presented by the Canadian Government to her Majesty, and a large number have been struck in bronze for distribution by that Government. The intrinsic value of the gold used in the copy presented to the Queen is £50 sterling, or about \$250.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Regular Meeting, November 25th, 1869.—The President in the chair. Present, Messrs. Anthon, Betts, Bailey, E. Groh, Hewitt, Levick, Nexsen, Parish, Redlich, and Wood.

Donations received: from J. Ross Snowden, a copy of his work, "Coins of the Bible and its Money Terms", issued by the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Phila.; from Mr. Betts, a pamphlet on the Antiquities of Wisconsin, by J. A. Lapham; from Mr. Wood, a copy of "The Architect and Monetarian, a brief Memoir of Thomas Alexander Tefft", by Edwin Martin Stone, Providence, 1869; from Mr. Levick, a rare Benjamin Franklin token, in tin; and from Mr. Parish, a number of uncirculated current French, German, and Italian silver coins, collected by him during his recent tour in Europe.

Mr. Nexsen exhibited a fine series of French Crowns from Louis XIII. to Napoleon III.; and Mr. Parish a number of beautiful and uncommon foreign pieces. Dr. Anthon exhibited a series of European Medals illustrative of incidents in American history.

A letter was read from Mr. William Poillon, accepting membership; Mr. Loring Watson, nominated by Mr. Levick at the last meeting, was unanimously elected a Resident Member.

JAS. M. BAILEY, Recording Secretary.

Regular Meeting, December 9th, 1869.—The President in the chair. Present, Messrs. Anthon, Bailey, E. Groh, Levick, Poillon, Redlich, Sanford, Watson, and Wood.

Donations received: from Alfred Sandham, of Montreal, plates for the JOURNAL, illustrative of the medal struck to commemorate the foundation of the Dominion of Canada, also several Canadian medals, in tin, for the Society's cabinet.

Mr. Redlich exhibited a series of the silver coins of Frankfort, and several silver medals illustrative of the Reformation and its anniversary celebrations. Dr. Anthon exhibited a number of English gold coins, and a gold coronation medal of George III.

Mr. Redlich proposed as Resident Member Mr. Julius Bruno. Laid over in accordance with By-laws. Mr. Levick proposed as Corresponding Member Mr. William Fewsmith, of Philadelphia; and he was unanimously elected.

Mr. Groh requested to be relieved from the Curatorship of the Coin-Cabinet, as he finds that his business cares will not allow him to attend to it. The Society, feeling great reluctance to accept this resignation, and after urging Mr. Groh to reconsider it, finally laid the matter on the table till the next meeting.

JAS. MUHLENBERG BAILEY, *Recording Secretary*.

NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting of this Society was held on Friday evening, November 26th—Vice-President Crosby in the chair.

Letters were read from Dr. Charles Clay of Manchester, England, in which, in addition to valuable information, he inclosed an impression in copper foil of a rare type of the "Pitt token" which has lately come into his possession. It had on the obverse a large-sized bust of William Pitt, with full wig; legend: "The Restorer of Commerce, 1766. No Stamps"; and on the reverse the same inscription as that on the ordinary "Pitt token". He also inclosed a similar impression of the rare "James Dawson piece" of Gloucester, Va., only one other of which is known.

Mr. James E. Root of Boston was elected a Resident Member of the Society.

The following donations were reported by the Librarian: "The Currency of the Isle of Man, edited by Charles Clay, M.D., Manchester, 1869", published by the Manx Society, from the author; "The American Negotiator, London, 1763", and "A Manual of Foreign Exchanges, Glasgow, 1820", from Mr. H. Cook. Also the following purchases were reported: "Hobler's Roman Coins", 2 vols. 4to; "Pinkerton on Medals", 2 vols. 8vo; "Bowring's Decimal System"; and "Lectures on the Roman Denarius". Mr. Crosby exhibited patterns of the I, III, and V cent pieces of 1869; a I cent pattern of 1868 with a tobacco wreath on reverse, instead of the usual laurel wreath; and a cent of 1864 in aluminum bronze, struck during a visit of the Commissioners at the Mint. Mr. Chaplin showed a series of eight Napoleon Medals, and a fac-simile of the woodcut from which John Hancock's address cards were printed.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Charles Clay of Manchester, England, for the donation of his work on "The Currency of the Isle of Man", and the meeting then adjourned.

DUDLEY R. CHILD, *Recording Secretary*.

The regular meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, December 16th—Vice-President Crosby occupying the chair.

The Secretary read a letter from Edmund J. Cleveland, Esq., of Newark, N. J., describing the "Confederatio" copper of 1785, which was sold in Haines' Sale of January 19-23, 1863.

The Curator reported a donation from Mr. T. E. Bond, consisting of several Colonials, Medals, and Store Cards.

Mr. Chaplin exhibited the "De Fleury" Medal for the Battle of "Stony Point", by Du Vivier, and a copy of the "Germantown" Medal, by Milton, both exceedingly rare medals. There were also exhibited seventeen varieties of the "one Daler" piece of Baron Goertz.

The members passed a pleasant hour in looking over and discussing the records of the establishment of the Massachusetts Mint in 1652; after which the meeting adjourned for one month.

DUDLEY R. CHILD, *Recording Secretary*.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, Dec. 2. The records of the last meeting were read by the Secretary and accepted. The Secretary read a letter from J. R. Snowden, Esq., of Philadelphia, accompanying a donation of a small volume on the Coins and Money terms of the Bible. M. Jules Marcou, of Paris, France, was elected a Corresponding Member, and Mr. James E. Root was nominated, and under a suspension of the sixth By-law elected a Resident Member. Dr. Lewis exhibited three gold coins, a twenty-franc piece of the Republic of Eridaia, with the inscription "L'Italie délivrée à Marengo", a beautiful pattern of the same value of the French Republic of 1848, and a ducat of Andrew Gritti, Doge of Venice, with other memorials of the same Doge. Mr. Crosby exhibited a set of nine patterns for five cents, prepared at the U. S. Mint in 1866, and believed to include all the varieties of that year. The Secretary exhibited a number of pieces lately brought home. First, a large number of Japanese coins in various metals, bought in that country; among the copper were some of strange shape and device, having no resemblance to the coins of any civilized nation; with these were specimens of the lowest three issues of Japanese paper, called *kinsatz*, or *good as gold*, but which have fallen from the original intention in the manner of United States "legal-tenders"; also a small native hand-book of Japanese coins, and a volume printed at Osaka some years ago, as a guide to the value of foreign coins circulating in Japan, with many woodcuts and long descriptions of the pieces in Japanese: more faithful copies of coins were never made, and at the end of the book are represented a Vernon medal and the Rhode Island medal. Second, a set of the gold and silver coinage struck at Manila for circulation in the Philippine Islands. Third, a set of the paper issued by the Corporation of Salt Lake City, Utah, consisting of

bills for two dollars, one dollar, fifty cents, and twenty-five cents. Fourth, the cent issued in 1863, by J. Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, bearing his head, and circulating freely at Singapore. Dr. Lewis and Mr. Rhodes were appointed a committee to nominate a list of officers for the next year, to be reported at the Annual Meeting in January. The meeting was an interesting one, on account of the number and variety of specimens exhibited, causing discussion on the numismatics of many countries. The Society adjourned shortly after 4½ P. M.

NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal appointed lately a committee consisting of Messrs. R. J. Wicksteed, G. E. Hart, and R. McLachlan, for the purpose of considering the propriety and feasibility of incorporating the society.

The report of this committee being favorable, the association has instructed E. Carter, Esq., Q. C., M. P. P., to introduce the bill and procure an act of incorporation from the Quebec Parliament.

In doing this we cannot but think that the Society in question has taken an important step in the right direction.

It has long been the fashion to laugh at the study of antiquities and to consider it as the idle amusement of a few hundred old fogies who, wanting genius for nobler studies, busied themselves in heaping up illegible MSS., mutilated statues, obliterated coins, and broken saucers. In this the laughers may, perhaps, have been somewhat justified from the absurd pursuits of a few collectors. But at the same time an argument deduced from the abuse or perversion of any study is by no means conclusive against the study itself. And in this particular case it can easily be proved that without a competent fund of antiquarian learning no one will ever make a respectable figure either as a divine, a lawyer, politician, soldier, or even as a private gentleman, and that it is a *sine qua non* of several of the more learned professions as well as of many trades, and is a study to which all persons in particular directions have a kind of propensity.

In cultivating the study of antiquities care must be taken not to fall, as but too many have done, into a grave error—we mean that of making collections of things which have no other merit than that of being old or having belonged to some eminent persons, and are not illustrative of any point in history, such as Cromwell's skull, Napoleon's eye-tooth, or Wellington's tooth-pick. These may be rather styled *reliques* than pieces of antiquity, and it is such trumpery that is sneered at by the ridiculers of antiquity.

The cabinet of the Montreal Numismatic and Antiquarian Society is meant as a repository for drawings, coins, and MSS. respecting the history and antiquities of the country. Any gentleman possessed of these with which he would choose to oblige the public may, we understand, by sending them to the curator of this society have them carefully preserved; or, if incompatible or improper, immediately returned to him. In both cases the thanks of the society will be earned and obtained.—*Montreal Gazette, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 1869.*

DR. DE SOLA'S LECTURE.

On Wednesday evening last a lecture was delivered, under the auspices of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, by the Rev. Dr. De Sola, in the rooms of the Natural History Society. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present, and the chair was taken at eight o'clock by Mr. D. Rose, Vice-President of the society, who in a few opening remarks explained the aim and object of the society, namely, numismatic study and antiquarian research. The society possesses a cabinet of coins and medals and other nuclei of a fine numismatic library. Many very interesting papers have been read, and one of its members (Mr. A. Sandham) has published a work descriptive of the coins, tokens, and medals of Canada. An act of incorporation has been applied for and the society intend to secure a complete series of coins, &c., pertaining to the history of Canada. He would merely add that this lecture would form the first of a series to be delivered by members and other gentlemen during the winter. Rev. Dr. De Sola was then introduced and was received with applause.

After some explanatory remarks the lecturer proceeded to show how the exigencies of commerce would always demand a system of coins, weights, and measures as representatives of value, and these being necessarily used at an early period in the East it was not surprising to find them used by Abraham even at a time when exchange was mostly in kine. He proved by various considerations that cattle was for a long time the chief measure of value among the Hebrews, and by quotations from the *Iliad* among the Greeks also. He next spoke of the regulations of weights and measures in Asia and among the Hebrews in the time of Moses. Money in those days consisted of pieces of metal of certain weights, with certain marks to distinguish its value and the purity of the metal; this was, perhaps, conveyed by the expression, "current with the merchant", applied to the consideration money for the purchase of Machpelah by Abraham. The term "weighing" employed here and in other places of Scripture was frequently to be taken in the sense of paying, and did not necessarily imply that gold and silver coin were not in use, and that the metals were bartered like any other commodity. Dr. De Sola then proceeded to show that the Hebrews must have had money current at a very early period and that their close connection with the Phœnicians must have necessitated this, but that there were no remains of stamped coins previous to the Babylonian captivity. The first mention of coined money is the Dark monim of gold and Manim of silver in Ezra. A description of the Adarkon and the silver shekel, called by the Greeks the Median Siglos, followed, and the remainder—by far the greater portion—of the lecture was devoted to an examination of the Hebrew coinage, of which we have existing remains, the Maccabean in particular. Fac-similes of these and other various inscriptions were illustrated on the blackboard by the lecturer, who was followed by his audience with an interest that never flagged for a moment, showing that there is hope for the study of Numismatics in Montreal.

The lecture, which was interspersed with remarks that were productive of considerable merriment and applause, was concluded with a reply to an inquiry contained in a note the lecturer had received that evening, and which he read, asking him to consider the Kesita, a coin mentioned in the last chapter of Job, with reference to the antiquity of that book. His reply showed that it tended to establish the highest antiquity of the book claimed for it. The reverend lecturer closed amid hearty applause, and received a vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

At the close of the lecture, several Hebrew and other coins were exhibited by Mr. McLachlan, and were examined with great interest.—*Montreal Daily News, Saturday, Nov. 27, 1869.*

PORTRAITS ON COINS.

The fidelity of the likenesses of the English monarchs on their coins has been strangely overrated, and has led to many erroneous impressions of the personal characteristics of our sovereigns; although there is an epoch at which these representations assume some claim to authenticity. Mr. Planché has compared the monarchs anterior to Henry VIII. to "the visioned line of Banquo", imaginary creations, with so strong a family resemblance even in their dresses that we may exclaim with Macbeth, the

"Other gold-bound brow is like the first,
A third is like the former.
Why do you show me this?"

Numismatists are not, however, uniform in their opinions as to the extent of the reliance to be placed upon these medallic portraits. Mr. Akerman, F. S. A., observes: "It is quite evident that the effigies of the English monarchs on their coins are not *likenesses* until the time of Henry VIII., whatever the ingenious may say to the contrary. Some have supposed that the rude figures on the Saxon coins are likenesses, but the idea is ridiculous. Folkes, in his *Table of English Silver Coins*, remarks that the kings of England are represented bearded on their great seals, but always smooth-faced on their coins. Mr. Till observes upon this interesting point of identity:

"Having paid some attention to the portraits of our sovereigns, I am decidedly of opinion that we occasionally see a real though rough likeness in profile of our earliest kings, even of William I. As to Henry I. and Stephen, any one who is a judge of portraits may find, on comparison, a certain profile preserved throughout. With full-faced coins the case is different: though I have seen a halfpenny and a gold noble of Richard II., both struck when he was a boy, and conveying, to a certain extent, the image of the youthful sovereign. But it is not until the reign of Henry VIII. that we obtain a real likeness on a full-faced coin."

Want of judgment in the engravers at the Royal Mint has doubtless multiplied these errors in modern as in ancient times. This is especially instanced in the coinage of George III. The head of this monarch upon his crown-piece by Pistrucci is, as to likeness, completely erroneous. Indeed this artist, Mr. Till infers, "never could have seen George III". It excites our risibility to notice the first half-crown of this monarch, exhibiting our respected old king with a neck like unto a gladiator. This, it appears, did not please: another was executed; the fault, if any, was mended, and still *no likeness*. If the head on the crown-piece was a likeness, why not then have engraved the half-crowns from the same model? They present very different portraits altogether; surely this must be very absurd. What can be more ridiculous than to see three coins representing the same person, issued at one and the same time, all bearing different countenances? Why not have taken the copper two-penny-piece, engraved at Soho (near Birmingham) by Kuechler, as a copy?—this is *like* the sovereign, probably one of the best likenesses extant; or, if at a loss, many fine medals by the same artist, or the Wyons, convey a faithful resemblance of George III.—*Timb's Popular Errors Explained*, p. 46.

ERROR HALF-PENCE.

Of all the blunders which have emanated from our National Mint, those of the two Error Halfpence of George II. and George III., formerly termed "Tower Halfpence", stand pre-eminent. Indeed, it must ever remain a matter of astonishment that such a circumstance could have taken place. If the collector of these coins will take the trouble to search, he will find, in the year 1730, one of the halfpence of the first-named sovereign spelled GEOGIUS. This certainly is very extraordinary; but is it not much more so to find subsequently one issuing from the Mint of his successor, George III., likewise misspelt? This reads GEORGIUS instead of GEORGIUS, and was issued in 1772. There is reason to believe that, after the latter coins were circulated, a reward was offered for each piece, if returned to the Mint. This is probable, as they are more rare than those of George II.—*Ibid.*, p. 47.

OLD CASH.

KING SOLOMON'S CURRENCY AND TITUS' SMALL CHANGE—RARE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE COINS.

Mrs. Goldberry, of East Broadway, who holds in her possession some of the oldest coins extant, intends sending her collection to the exhibition at Vienna, which comes off next year. There are two shekels, one of which dates from the reign of King Solomon; the other a thousand years farther back, from the time of Moses. The smaller of the two has on the reverse the words, in Hebrew characters, "Jerusalem Kedoshah" (Jerusalem, the holy), enclosing what is probably intended to represent Moses or Aaron's rod, flowering. On the obverse are the words, in clear characters, "Shekel Israel", surrounding a pot of burning incense. The larger one bears exactly the same inscription and device, but is much better finished and of a somewhat superior quality of silver. A third coin is composed of copper and bears on the reverse the Second Commandment, which, freely translated from the Hebrew, means "Thou shalt have no more than one God." The obverse has a boldly executed head of Solomon wearing a helmet and heavy beard, but no moustache. There is also in the collection a silver amulet, somewhat larger than a Mexican dollar, with the date 136 Anno Domini, and the Latin inscription, "Confirmo O Deus Potentissimus." On the other side there are sixteen squares, in each of which is a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The verge bears the names of three angels in Hebrew characters. There are two small coins, one of the reign of Titus and the other of Constantine. That of Titus is splendidly executed. The head and face of the Roman emperor are remarkably well cast in relief. The one of Constantine is not so fine or distinct. The collection is exceedingly interesting to lovers of numismatic curiosities.—*N. Y. Herald, Dec. 28, 1869.*

Is it not singular that our "leading journal", as it would fain be considered, should admit into its columns an account so stupidly false? The reporter, who has been imposed on by Mrs. Goldberry, in innocence, no doubt, would do well to dissuade her from sending her treasures to Vienna. The copper "Solomon" (!), which is in fact the well-known forgery of Moses, will be more highly esteemed at the nearest junk-shop than on the banks of the Danube; and the two imitated shekels—one from Görtitz and the other from the *officina* of our friend Lovett in Fulton street—will be amply paid for by a premium of fifty per cent. on their silver value. The amulet may possess some interest, though its date is certainly mis-read. "Lovers of numismatic curiosities" are in the habit of giving about ten cents each for small brass of Roman emperors. The value of all these pieces is probably not sufficient to defray the expense of their transportation to Europe; and to ship them thither would be "sending coals to Newcastle", or "owls to Athens".